

Docket No. 338520-5215
U.S. App. No. 10/055,778

REMARKS

Claims 1-42, 45, 46, and 48 are currently pending in this application. Claims 43, 44, and 47 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 7, 15, 27, 37, 45, 46, and 48 have been amended. No new matter has been added and no new issues have been raised since the amendments have merely rewritten dependent claims as independent claims and corrected typographical errors.

The following remarks put the pending claims in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection

35 USC § 103(a) Rejection over Evans et al. in view of Hipps et al.

Claims 43, 44, and 47 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Evans et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,322,499) in view of Hipps et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,228,025).

In order to expedite prosecution, these claims have been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 43, 44, and 47 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

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Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 45 and 46 for being dependent upon rejected base claim 43. These claims have been amended and rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claims 45 and 46 be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

As all of the outstanding rejections and objections have been addressed and all of the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, the Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowability. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative should any further issues arise.

Respectfully submitted,

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